



Ninety-Ninth Legislature - First Session - 2005
Introducer's Statement of Intent
LB 228

Chairperson: Ron Raikes
Committee: Education
Date of Hearing: February 1, 2005

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

Legislative Bill 228 would permit schools districts to implement full-day kindergarten for students in poverty.

Current law includes full-day kindergartners as "formula students" for whom state aid is available, but only after a school district has been able to put the full-day kindergarten into effect for a full year.

For school districts who are at spending and levy limits, it becomes impossible to put in place full-day kindergarten. This creates a cycle where school districts who have available funds are rewarded with additional state aid, and school districts who do not have such funds are penalized.

Research reveals that while first-time kindergartners are similar in many ways, their knowledge and skills differ in relation to their race/ethnicity, health status, and socio-economic status.

Full-day kindergarten allows children and teachers time to explore topics indepth, reduces the ratio of transition time to class time, and provides for greater continuity of day-to-day activities.

Research confirms that children most likely to benefit from these services are children in poverty.

Legislative Bill 228 creates levy and spending lid exclusions for implementation of full-day kindergarten instruction specifically for students in poverty.

It also provides the ability for school districts to construct, expand, or alter school buildings to facilitate implementation of full-day kindergarten for students in poverty.

It is not the intent of Legislative Bill 228 to prohibit school districts from providing full-day kindergarten to non-poverty students, nor is it the intent of Legislative Bill 228 to restrict non-poverty students from participating in full-day kindergarten classes implemented for students in poverty.

Legislative Bill 228 simply provides levy and spending exclusions for the cost of implementing full-day kindergarten proportionate to the number of kindergarten students in a school district who are in poverty.

Principal Introducer:

Senator Gwen Howard